

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT – TAJIKISTAN (July 2021)

Part I.

Name of Country: Tajikistan

Part II.

U.S. Embassy Information

U.S. Embassy Dushanbe

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[Country Information Travel Advisory](#)

[Register with the U.S. Embassy Dushanbe](#)

Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available to visitors

Country Profile/Host Country Religions: Religions are Muslim 98% (Sunni 95%, Shi'a 3%) and other 2%.

Religious Activities for Visitors: Tajiks are mostly Muslim (or nominally Muslim), but there are Baptist, Adventist, Korean Pentecostal, Catholic, German-speaking Catholic, and Russian Orthodox churches in Dushanbe. There are also weekly Catholic, Protestant, and non-denominational Protestant services in English.

PART IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in the Host Country

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Dushanbe, Tajikistan assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers. The prices listed below are estimates only and are subject to change due to exchange rate fluctuations.

1) Funeral bureaus that were once available in Tajikistan have stopped functioning. However, you can contact the Consular Section for information on those who may assist you with arranging funerals locally.

2) Republican Forensic Medicine Center under the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Tajikistan
Address: 19A I. Somoni Avenue, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Office: +992 37 236 9990
Director: Mahmadsharif Sharifov
Cell: +992 90 009 7333

3) Morgue of City Hospital #5 (Medgorodok)
Address: 33 Sanoi Street
Point of Contact: Vitaly Skvortsov
Cell: +992 93 515 0229

The morgue of the Republican Forensic Medicine Center is located at the City Hospital #5 also known as Medgorodok. Services include but not limited to: storage, body washing, autopsies upon request from the Prosecutor's General Office, embalming, arrangement of wooden or zinc caskets, issuance of certificate for transportation and transportation of body from other regions of Tajikistan to Dushanbe. The cost of daily storage of remains at this morgue is approximately \$7 (79 TJS).

4) Morgue at Istiqlol Hospital
Address: 54/1 N. Karabaev Street
Reception: +992 37 234 0122

The morgue at Istiqlol Hospital is a relatively new facility and equipped with modern refrigerators. The facility should be contacted directly for information on range and cost of services.

5) Dunyo Cargo LLC – Shipping Company
Office phone: +992 44 610 7070
General email: info@dunyocargo.com
Website: <http://www.dunyocargo.com/>
Commercial Director: Jamshed Rizoev
Phone: +992 900 071 900; +992 44 610 7002
E-mail: Jamshed.Rizoev@dunyo-llc.com

Dunyo Cargo LLC is an accredited cargo agent to a number of airlines, which allows to provide competitive rates and have a cargo loading priority for the flights. Cost of services can be requested directly from the service provider.

PART V. Profile of services available in Tajikistan regarding preparation and shipment of remains.

(1) **Maximum period Before Burial of Remains:** Local laws do not specify the maximum time limit for disposition of remains. According to information provided by one of the morgues, the maximum period before the interment can range from one to three months. Unclaimed bodies, however, may be kept in a refrigerator, preliminary embalmed with a special solution, until claimed. The disposition of unclaimed bodies normally occurs as soon as there are more than 5-6 bodies collected in a morgue. The morgue then sends them for burial at a pauper's grave at the expense of Tajik authorities.

(2) **Embalming:** Embalming is performed at a morgue, including at the morgue of the Republican Forensic Medicine Center. It is recommended to embalm the remains within 24 hours after the death. The solution of 10% of formalin, 96% of alcohol and glycerin is used for embalming.

(3) **Cremation:** There are no special facilities in Tajikistan for this purpose. Hence, cremation is not possible in the country.

(4) **Caskets and Containers:** Normally morgues can arrange or direct next of kin/s on where caskets and containers are available for further shipment of remains out of Tajikistan. The morgue of the Republican Forensic Medicine Center, for instance, provides a so-called "triplet" consisting of a crate, zinc casket and a coffin that meets the requirements to ship the deceased to the U.S. In case of death from a communicable disease, the morgue hermetically seals the casket. The approximate cost of the triple is \$500.

(5) **Exportation of Human Remains:** The exportation of remains to the United States is a costly process due to expensive air cargo rates. Before the body can be shipped via air, a set of documents including but not limited to the listed below must be prepared. The wooden crate in which a zinc

casket and a wooden coffin is placed must be sealed in an established order in the presence of a customs officer. The customs officer will then complete a document that the crate contains only the body and nothing else. Airlines will not accept the crate for shipment without such a document. The Consular Mortuary Certificate is a necessary document for the crate to be allowed in the U.S. territory. The Consular Section completes this document.

1. Certified copy of the deceased's passport.
2. Certified copy of the Local Death Certificate with translation.
3. Letter from the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Center (original and translation).
4. Letter from Republican Forensic Medicine Center (original and translation).
5. Certificate (Act) of embalming.
6. Certificate (Act) from the Customs Service official stating that only body (no other items) was placed and sealed in a zinc casket (original and translation).
7. Power of Attorney to the transportation company.
8. Consular Mortuary Certificate.

(6) Costs: Charges are on the exchange rate of July 27, 2021: \$1 = 11.32 TJS

NOTE: The prices for the services below are approximate and may change without any notice. For most updated and accurate costs, it is recommended to contact the facilities listed in Part IV directly.

Local interment that includes but not limited to:

Daily storage at morgue – \$7

Washing and dressing of a body – \$15

Embalming - \$45

Coffin - \$50

Purchase of a plot in a local cemetery – from \$450 (does not include the digging of a grave, transportation to a cemetery, grating, etc.)

Shipment by air: from \$4500

There is no direct flight from Tajikistan to the United States. A local cargo company should be contacted to arrange the shipment.

(7) Exhumation and Shipment: Local laws do not set a time limit for exhumation of remains. However, the permission from the Tajik Prosecutor's Office is required for disinterment of any remains and representatives of the Prosecutor's Office, as well as a forensic expert must be present during the process. The shipment of exhumed remains requires to prepare a set documents listed in Paragraph 5 above and the written approval from the Tajik Prosecutor's Office. There is no fixed price for exhumation. The cost will depend on a state of the exhumed remains, their preparation by a local mortician for shipment, collection of papers for shipment and the actual shipment out of the country. As foreign nationals are rarely buried in Tajikistan, the exhumation is generally done only in connection with criminal investigations by Prosecutor's Office and police.

(8) Autopsies: The autopsy is performed based on determination, decision and order of the country's investigative authorities. It is usually done in the following cases: death occurred due to unnatural causes, including inflicted bodily harm or suicide; untimely death due to unknown reasons; the body was found and if there is reason to suspect that death occurred because of medical malpractice. Family members can request an autopsy in other cases too and their written request will be required in order to complete the process. The Republican Forensic Medicine Center can perform autopsies.

(9) Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, Mourning, Memorial Services: When death occurs among local Muslim population, it is announced immediately to neighbors, relatives and friends. Everyone tries to visit the grieving family within the next seven days to support the family and recite short prayers in a memory of the deceased. The burial is usually scheduled within 24 hours after the death. A special prayer "Janoza" is attended by all present men. Only men go to a cemetery

for the burial process. Several special remembrance events are held after 7, 20, 40 days and after a year of death. These events may vary by region.

Christian population in Tajikistan may keep the body at home for more than a day but tries to arrange the interment soon due to weather conditions.

Local population rarely contacts commercial funeral services for assistance as it may be costly to them. In most cases, all arrangements are made by relatives or the neighborhood committee employees.